



Hamfest Gabfest: A group of hams—amateur radio operators—discuss mobile radio units during the annual hamfest of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society at Bauer's Grove yesterday. Sitting inside a trailer converted by TSARS into a mobile unit, they are (from left), Dr. John Alexander, Lowell Johnson, John Hawkins, Ann Atkinson and Ben Zieg, all of Evansville. (Staff Photo)

1956 Annual Hamfest Attracts 400 at Bauer's Grove

Maybe hams don't eat much ham but plenty of them found good reason to attend the annual Tri-State Amateur Radio Society hamfest yesterday.

Altogether there were about 400 persons at the Hamfest at Bauer's Grove, a half mile north of Darmstadt. About 200 of the them are licensed amateur radio operators.

Lowell A. Goodson, president of the society, said there were hams present from many cities. He pointed out hams from Baltimore, Detroit, Paducah, Terre Haute, Chicago and many other "foreign" spots.

Many automobiles with aerials were guided over the highways by means of radio. Goodson said it wasn't a question of getting on the beam, because the operator can talk to the ham-motorist and give him road directions and describe landmarks.

GOODSON SAID it's a revelation for many of the operators who talk to each other almost once every week and then see each other for the first time at the annual get-together.

Members explained there was no skimpy diet but ham was just not the main dish. Many members brought their own lunches, and barbecued beef could have been purchased.

Goodson said there are two types of hams. One kind likes to build and work on radio equipment while others like to operate their sets and make many contacts.

An old burned-out trailer was purchased and the Tri-State hams were on wheels. During the summer months members amuse themselves with transmitter hunts. This is sort of a scavenger hunt but you only have one thing to look for—a transmitter.

Goodson explained that yesterday's event was almost purely social but once a year the group gets together with hams from all over the nation on a field day.

Yesterday's hamfest, planned by hamfest committee chairman Ray Miller, did have a strong technical note, however, as members listened to the main speech of the day given by Brooks Short. Director of engineering research for Delio-Remy, he talked about interference from auto ignitions.

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A large variety of professions seem to be attracted to the radio hobby. At yesterday's outing there were farmers, accountants, bankers, doctors, internal revenue agents, mail carriers and persons from other vocations.

PERHAPS an actor would consider the term "ham" tacked on to his profession as an insult. Amateur radio operators, however, realize that the word is just a corruption of the word "amateur" and raise no fret when they're called hams — they call themselves just that.

Goodson pointed out that the hobby isn't a selfish one. "Besides the pleasure one gains from the hobby itself," he said, "the amateur operator serves many useful purposes."

"Perhaps the most useful purpose the ham serves," he said, "is that in the event of an emergency the amateur radio operator is there to help. Many of our members are enrolled in Civil Defense."

He said the organization has its own generator and can generate its own power in case of a power failure in the event of a disaster.

THE GROUP seemed especially proud of its mobile unit. The trailer carries two transmitters and three receivers. This was bought in kit form and assembled by members of the organization.

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400 Radio 'Hams' Assemble Here for Outing and Talk

Doctors, farmers, accountants, bankers, internal revenue agents, mail carriers, housewives and students—about 400 of them in all—got together yesterday afternoon to discuss a mutual hobby—amateur radio operation.

It was the annual "Hamfest" of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society in Bauer's Grove. And, according to Lowell A. Goodson,

president of the society, ham operators were present from many cities including Baltimore, Md., Detroit, Mich., Paducah, Terre Haute, and Chicago.

Many of the ham operators, who had sets in their cars, were guided to the meeting place by broadcast instructions.

A mobile radio unit was set up in the grove. It is in an old burned-out trailer which the group had bought and remodeled. It carries two transmitters and three receivers.

Guest speaker at yesterday's get-together was Brooks Short, director of engineering research for the Delco-Remy Company. Mr. Short's talk was about interference to ham radio operations from auto ignitions.

According to Mr. Goodson, many operators who talk together each day met personally yesterday for the first time.

"Besides the pleasure one gains from the hobby itself," he said, "the amateur operator serves many useful purposes. Perhaps the most useful . . . is that in the event of an emergency the amateur radio operator is there to help."